

**Probation Committee
Judicial Conference of Indiana**

**Minutes
October 18, 2002**

The Probation Committee of the Judicial Conference of Indiana met at the Indiana Judicial Center on October 18, 2002 from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

1. Members present. The following members of the committee were present: Douglas R. Bridges, Wayne Steele, Dan Vanderpool, David Whitton, and John Surbeck, chair.
2. Staff present. Jane Seigel, Jenny Bauer, Bob Champion and Michelle Goodman provided staff assistance to the committee.
3. Minutes approved. The minutes from the September 11, 2002 meeting were approved.
4. Regional Meetings. Bob Champion reported that 142 probation departments have registered to send probation officers to the Regional Meetings. He expects close to 600 probation officers to attend the meetings. The agenda for the meetings includes updates from the Judicial Center on the Interstate Compact, Sex Offender Registry, JTAC and a session on ethics and liabilities.
5. Funding for probation officer salary increases. The committee discussed possible sources of funding for the increases in probation officer salaries scheduled to take effect in 2004. They discussed in particular drafting legislation to create an administrative fee that would be paid by persons ordered to probation. Money generated by this fee could go to the county general fund and earmarked for probation officer salaries. Jane Seigel suggested that such a bill should be a "stand-alone" bill so that it will not get lost in another bill or bogged down for reasons unrelated to the fee. The committee agreed that the support of the Association of Indiana Counties would be critical for any proposed legislation. The committee also discussed that the House Courts and Criminal Code Committee and the Senate Judiciary Committee may be the appropriate starting points for any legislation the committee proposes.
6. Anniversary Date question. Jenny Bauer reported that several chief probation officers have raised the following question: if a probation officer fails the probation officer exam, when is their "anniversary date" for purposes of the salary schedule? Paragraph 3 of the Schedule of Minimum Salaries for Probation Officers states that probation officer salaries increase on the anniversary date of employment. Because probation officers who fail the exam cannot act as probation officers until they re-take and pass the exam (90 days), there is

confusion as to the “anniversary date of employment” for these persons. After much discussion, the committee decided by a unanimous vote that for probation officers who fail the probation officer exam, the anniversary date of employment becomes that date when they pass the exam (instead of the date of hire as it is for probation officers who pass the exam on the first attempt).

7. Next meeting. The next meeting of the Probation Committee is scheduled for November 22, 2002.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Bauer
Staff Attorney